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REVIEW OF ESTONIAN SSR AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS AT REPUBLIC PARTY CONGRESS

The report on 16 September 1952 by I. G. Kebin, First Secretary, TsK KP(b) of Estonia, to the Seventh Congress of KP(b) of Estonia, contained the following information on the progress of agriculture in the republic:

At present, there are twice as many tractors in the republic as in 1950 and 12 times as many as in 1945. More than 300 self-propelled combines, flax combines, flax pullers, and other complex agricultural machines are in use on kolkhoz fields. In 1951, MTS performed 45 percent of all basic field work with machines; in 1952, mechanization of field work is approaching 62 percent; by the end of 1955, mechanization of various field work operations is to rise to the following levels: plowing, 90 percent; sowing of grain crops, 90 percent; sowing of sugar beets and fiber flax, 85 percent; harvesting of grain crops, 60 percent; harvesting of flax, 90 percent; and mowing of hay, 50 percent.

In 1951, MTS fulfilled the over-all plan for tractor work 103 percent. The productivity of the tractor park rose 20 percent as compared with 1950. During the first half of 1952, output per 15-horsepower tractor rose 16 percent as compared with the first half of 1951.

Although they fulfilled the 1951 over-all plan for tractor work, MTS did not fulfill the individual plans for plowing of winter fallow, threshing of grain crops, harvesting of flax, hay mowing, ensilage storage, improvement work, and mechanization of labor-consuming processes in animal husbandry.

In 1952, the total sown area in kolkhozes increased 24 percent over 1950; the area sown to grain crops increased 18 percent; industrial crops, 21.4 percent; potatoes and vegetables, 33.8 percent; and fodder crops, 33.2 percent.

As of 1 August 1952, the number of livestock in kolkhozes of the republic had increased over 1950 as follows: cattle, 143 percent; hogs, 158 percent; sheep and goats, 165 percent; horses, 108 percent; and poultry, 102 percent. As of 1 August 1952, the 1952 livestock development plan had been fulfilled for all types of livestock except cows and poultry. In 1951, the plan for milk yield was not fulfilled.

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The fodder base is still inadequate and measures must be taken to expand it. In kolkhozes of the republic, most collectivized livestock is still housed in unsuitable shelters. Often, the livestock of a kolkhoz is scattered in 10-11 different places. During the last 2 years, almost all kolkhozes have begun building standard livestock shelters, but the construction rate has been unsatisfactory.

Numerous occurrences of land diversion and collectivized property pilferage and embezzlement are uncovered in kolkhozes of the republic. Liquidation of kolkhoz charter violations is making very slow progress.

While labor organization in kolkhozes has improved and average number of workdays per worker has increased during the last 18 months, there are still serious deficiencies in labor organization and payment of kolkhoz workers for their work. There are still kolkhoz workers in the republic who take little part in the collective work of the kolkhozes.

At present, kolkhoz chairmen include 492 party members and candidate members, 57 Komsomols, 2 persons with higher agricultural education, 106 persons with secondary agricultural or general education, and 140 persons with uncompleted secondary agricultural or general education; remaining chairmen have only elementary education. At present, 285 chairmen are studying in 3-year agricultural schools and 78 are taking one-year courses.

At present, 2,500 specialists with secondary and higher education are working in the sphere of agriculture. A task of the next 2-3 years is attainment of a situation where every kolkhoz will have its own specialists. An agricultural academy has been created in the republic, and enrollments in agricultural tekhnikums have increased. In the academy and tekhnikums, there are now 3,700 students, 700 more than in 1950.

The sown area in sovkhozes of the republic has increased by 15 percent over 1950; yield of grain crops has risen, the number of livestock has increased, and delivery of agricultural products to the state has expanded.

However, there were serious shortcomings in the 1951 work of sovkhozes: the yield of fodder root crops, potatoes, and sown grasses declined, with adverse effect on sovkhoz livestock; the plan for delivery of milk to the state and that for fattening of livestock were not fulfilled; and tractors were not used in a satisfactory manner. The Ministry of State Farms (Mette, minister) is giving little aid to lagging kolkhozes.

Oyya, Minister of Agriculture, is subject to criticism because he takes an uncritical attitude toward the work of his ministry and its subordinate organizations. Shtamm, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Cadres, permits serious errors in the selection of cadres and appoints unqualified personnel to responsible posts. The work of the Main Administration of Land Improvement under the Council of Ministers Estonian SSR is most unsatisfactory because of poor machine utilization in its mechanized improvement stations.

With the 1952 agricultural year drawing to a close, it is possible to draw the conclusion that the main pledges made to Stalin in a letter from the agricultural workers of the republic, namely, to grow a rich harvest of crops and to fulfill the livestock development plan, are being fulfilled. In many areas, the grain, fodder, and potato harvests were good. Obligations for delivery of meat, milk, wool, and other products are being met successfully.

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At present, kolkhozes and sovkhoses are harvesting grain crops. However, as of 10 September, only 42 percent of the grain harvest had been reaped in the republic as a whole. The grain ripened late, harvesting began 10 days later than usual, and then rainy weather created additional difficulties.

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